



## FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA

A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

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### ***Worship Associates Charter***

#### ***Purpose***

The Worship Associates program at First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia (a Unitarian Universalist congregation) reflects our commitment to shared ministry. Being a Worship Associate provides opportunities for laity to assume a leadership role in our Sunday morning services of worship.

Worship Associates work with the minister and the Worship Arts Ministry Team to plan and conduct Services each week throughout the year. The objective of this partnership is to bring focus to the service and to create a quality worship experience and to ensure the excellence of each worship service.

Worship Associates support our Unitarian Universalist tradition of freedom of the pulpit and the pew. Working in concert with the Minister and the Worship Arts Ministry Team, they uphold the basic philosophy and retain the style and sense of Sunday Services at First Unitarian, and at the same time are open to collaboration and appropriate innovation. This work will also involve the Music Director, and at times the Religious Education Coordinator as appropriate.

#### ***Mission Statement***

The mission of the Worship Associates is to contribute to the life of the congregation as co-creators and supporters of worship. We will accomplish this by providing support and assistance to our minister; serve as a liaison for the congregation about worship needs; develop and present worship services; and identify, evaluate and sustain rituals. The Worship Associates recognize the importance of personal learning and sharing of experiences in fulfilling our mission.

#### ***Membership and Meetings***

The Worship Associates are selected from those who complete the Worship Associates application. The Worship Associates program is co-facilitated by the Minister and Chair of the Worship Arts Ministry Team. Worship Associates are encouraged to attend as many Worship Arts Ministry Team meetings as possible - but at least one each season. Worship Associates will:

- Ensure that Sunday Services reflect our values and philosophy of Unitarian Universalist worship, and properly balance the spiritual and religious needs of our diverse community.
- Serve as liaisons for the congregation by bringing worship concerns and feedback to the Worship Arts Ministry Team for consideration.
- Work in partnership with the Minister
- Serve as an extension of our shared ministry
- Participate in intentional learning and to further our understanding of worship and worship leadership